

PATENTS{PRIVATE }

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	)	
	)	
Haiyou Wang et al.	)	Art Unit 1754
	)	
Serial No. 10/669,959	)	Before the Examiner
	)	
Filed: September 23, 2003	)	Cam N. Nguyen
	)	
CATALYST FOR THE GENERATION OF CO-FREE HYDROGEN		

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This is in response to the First Office Action dated December 08, 12004. Please enter the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application and all are under rejection.

**First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1-5 & 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choudhary et al.(Choudhary) in view of Richter et al (Richter).

**Examiner's Position**

It is the Examiner's position that Choudhary discloses a process for preparing a composite catalyst that is useful for the oxidative conversion of methane or natural gas to H<sub>2</sub> and CO (synthesis gas). The composite catalyst consists of transitional and alkaline earth metal oxides having the formula: T<sub>m</sub>AO<sub>n</sub>, wherein T is a transition element selected from Ni, Co, Pd, Ru, Rh, Ir and mixtures thereof, m is the mole ratio of T/A, which mole ratio is from about 0.01 to about